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NOTES AND LITERATURE

ASTRONOMY AND PHYSICS

A Laboratory Astronomy.[1] — This book is the outcome of the author's experience in handling with his large elementary classes in Harvard College, "those difficult and discouraging" parts of astronomy which deal with "the diurnal motion of the heavens and the apparent motions of the sun, moon, and planets among the stars." It is suggested that each student ought to make for himself, and discuss carefully, a great number of simple observations, so that the facts to be brought out may become a part of his own experience. The apparatus required, most of which has been especially designed for this work, is so inexpensive that each student can be supplied with a complete outfit. This makes it possible for all the members of a class to do similar work at a given time — "a principle of cardinal importance in elementary laboratory work with large classes." The book is intended primarily for teachers and should be used in connection with a descriptive text-book.

No one who knows Professor Willson personally, will need the reviewer's assurance of the remarkable ingenuity of his methods, or of the admirable qualities of his style. This book is a fine example of a modern tendency, new in astronomy, but fortunately well established in physics and chemistry, of carrying interesting laboratory work into the very beginning of a student's acquaintance with natural science.

A feature of interest to the general reader is a well written chapter on the contents and use of a nautical almanac, with a full set of specimen pages.

H. N. D.

A Laboratory Physics.[2] — This book, like the one just reviewed, is intended as a laboratory manual for a large elementary course in Harvard College, and presents such material as might form a set of

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[1] Willson, Robert W. *A Laboratory Astronomy.* Boston, Ginn and Co., 1906. 8vo, ix + 189 pp.

[2] Sabine, Wallace C. *A Student's Manual of a Laboratory Course in Physical Measurements.* Rev. ed., Boston, Ginn and Co., 1906. 8vo, vi + 97 pp.